

I would ask the Clerk if we'd pass over this bill so that when we do get to it, we'll have the adequate time necessary to not only talk about it, but not waste the body's time today on a bill that does have a substantial policy change. So I'd ask if we'd pass that over now.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you very much. We'll pass that over as well. Next item on the agenda, Mr. Clerk. LB 909.

CLERK: Mr. President, 909, introduced by Senators Wesely and Rasmussen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, referred to the Health Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Health Committee amendments, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 909 is a bill that cleans up a number of areas in our child care and early childhood education statutes. We have been working with both the Department of Social Services and Department of Education to try and resolve some different clarification needs in the current programs that we have in place. At the hearing there was particular attention paid to a couple of elements of the bill that the committee amendments dealt with. One of those dealt with the question of the Early Childhood Coordinating Committee that we have established, that oversees child care and early childhood issues. And there was a number of elements in the bill that strengthened that committee, including the rules and regs for family day care going through the committee instead of the Department of Social Services. That had objections, so that is changed by this committee amendment. We also had a provision that allowed for a part-time assistant in the child care setting to not have to fall under workers' compensation coverage. That brought concern from individuals, and so that is deleted as well from the bill. And we also had concern about an element that said it would no longer be a situation where you could only get one grant out of the Child Care Grant Fund. The original bill said basically anybody could compete for additional grants. The committee amendment specifies that if you have two applicants that are basically equal in merit, the individual who hasn't had a grant before would have preference, so that those who have had a grant previously would have a secondary role in terms of getting